

Message Text

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1130

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON - RESULTS OF WALDHEIM'S TRIP - INITIAL REPORT

1. ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS REPORT IS AN INTERIM ONE BASED ON INTERRUPTED CONVERSATIONS WITH URQUHART DURING THE EVENING OF APRIL 18. I WILL GET FURTHER DETAILS FROM SIILASVUO TOMORROW MORNING.

2. UPSHOT IS ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAWAL OF APPROXIMATELY SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF OCCUPIED SOUTHERN LEBANON BY APRIL 30. LINE BEGINS AT MEDITERRANEAN SOUTH OF TYRE AND RUNS EAST AND NORTHEAST FOR A DISTANCE OF SIX TO TEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE ARMISTICE DEMARCATION LINE. GENERAL SIILASVUO WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH ISRAEL WITH A VIEW TO SETTING A DATE FOR FINAL WITHDRAWAL.

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3. URQUHART COMMENTED THAT ABOVE WAS NOT AS GOOD AS UN HAD HOPED BUT NOT AS BAD AS IT COULD HAVE BEEN. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT LEFT CHRISTIAN AND SHIA AREAS ALONG BORDER UNDER IDF OCCUPATION BUT SEEMED TO THINK THAT ISRAELI POSITION WOULD HELP RENDER PRESSING POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN NEW YORK MANAGEABLE. ABOVE CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED WHEN URQUHART AND SIILASVUO RECOGNIZED THAT THEY HAD NOT DISCUSSED METHOD AND TIMING OF PUBLIC RELEASE

WITH WALDHEIM. URQUHART THOUGHT IT SHOULD TAKE FORM OF LETTER FROM SYG TO PRESIDENT OF SC AND RELEASE SHOULD BE AT ONCE. WALDHEIM FAVORS EXPANSION OF UNIFIL TO 6,000.

4. FOLLOWING SNATCHES GLEANED ON BEIRUT CONVERSATIONS APRIL 18: URQUAHRT WAS STRUCK BY DISUNITY AND EXTREME WEAKNESS OF GOL. AT ONE STAGE WHEN DISCUSSING MOVEMENT OF LAF SOUTH, SARKIS, HOSS AND BOUTROS HAD ENGAGED IN HEATED ALTERCATION IN ARABIC IN FRONT OF THEIR UN GUESTS. URQUHART SAID GOL WANTS UNIFIL TO GUARD AND SUPPLY THREE LEBANESE COMPANIES TO BE SENT SOUTH. THERE WAS JUST A CERTAIN AMOUNT UNIFIL COULD ASK ITS MEN TO DO IF LEBANESE ARMY ITSELF INSISTED ON UN PROTECTION. LIKE SIILASVUO, URQUHART FAVORS MORE GENDARMES IN SOUTH AND REESTABLISHMENT OF GOL CIVIL AUTHORITY. TRIED OUT IDEA OF UN CIVIL POLICE WORKING WITH GENDARMES ALONG LINES OF CYPRUS PRECEDENT. URQUAHRT'S INITIAL IMPRESSION WAS POSITIVE. ON PERSONAL BASIS, I SOUNDED HIM OUT ON POSSIBILITY OF WORKING TOWARD A LIMITED ARMAMENTS ZONE IN THE SOUTH. HE THOUGHT IDEA MIGHT BE A GOOD ONE BUT WONDERED WHETHER GOL IN ITS PRESENT STATE COULD PULL ITSELF TOGETHER SUFFICIENTLY TO ASK UN FOR SUCH A REGIME.

5. ARAFT. MEETING WITH ARAFAT HAD ON THE WHOLE BEEN POSITIVE. HE SAID PLO DID NOT OPPOSE THE ENTRY OF LEBANESE ARMY INTO THE SOUTH BECAUSE GOL WAS SOVEREIGN. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT LAF COMPOSED OF AT LEAST SEVEN FACTIONS RANGING FROM LEBANESE
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ARAB ARMY ELEMENTS, ALL THE WAY TO HADDAD. WHAT KIND OF LEBANESE ARMY, HE ASKED, WOULD BE SENT SOUTH? ARAFAT SAID HIS MEN HAD SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT IDF AND HAD PREVENTED FALL OF TYRE. THEY WOULD NOT ABANDON POSITIONS (IMPLICATION KASMIYA BRIDGE) UNDER ISRAELI GUNS BECAUSE ISRAELIS WOULD IMMEDIATELY OCCUPY SITES.

6. BOTH URQUHART AND WALDHEIM WERE SHAKEN WHEN ARMED PALESTINIANS SURGED AROUND THEIR CARS IN TYRE SHOUTING FOR IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. BOTH NOW HAVE A KEEN APPRECIATION OF PROBLEMS FACING FRENCH UNIFIL FORCES.

7. WALDHEIM AND URQUAHRT BELIEVE NAQUOURA IS TOO CLOSE TO ISRAEL TO SERVE AS UNIFIL HQ. THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HQ AT AZ ZAHRANI SOUTH OF SIDON BUT SYRIANS OCCUPY TAPLINE BUILDING AND WILL NOT GIVE IT UP. WALDHEIM INDICATED HE MAY APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY FOR PREFABRICATED US MODULES WHICH COULD BE MOVED QUICKLY TO ZAHRANI AND POSSIBLY TO TYRE.

8. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELIS, WEIZMAN HAD SAID ISRAELIS COULD NOT WITHDRAW AS LONG AS PLO HELD ISRAELI PRISONER AND FOUR BODIES FROM RECENT INCIDENT AND ASKED UN TO INTERCEDE. WALDHEIM AND URQUHART HAD REPLIED PLO WOULD CERTAINLY ASK FOR QUID PRO QUO.

WEIZMAN INDICATED GOI WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER EXCHANGE. IN
LATER DISCUSSION WITH BEGIN SUBJECT CAME UP. WHEN WEIZMAN'S POSITION
WAS MENTIONED BEGIN DID NOT DISSENT.

9. DAYAN IN HIS MEETING HAD BEEN SURPRISINGLY CORDIAL. HE SAID
HE WISHED USE ILMAC IN THE FUTURE. WHEN URQUHART POINTED OUT
GOI IN 1967 HAD SAID ILMAC AGREEMENTS NO LONGER VALID ROSENNE
DISPUTED THE POINT (OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT URQUHART, NOT
ROSENNE, IS RIGHT).

10. COMMENT: THIS FAR FROM IDEAL BUT IS THE MOST SYG AND
URQUHART FEEL COULD BE OBTAINED AT THIS TIME.
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